

Indust. Miss.

S. C. ARMSTRONG, PRINCIPAL;

J. F. B. MARSHALL, TREASURER.

# Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.

## THE BUTLER SCHOOL.

MISS ELIZABETH HYDE, *Principal.*

Assistants	{	MR. BOSWELL WHITE.	} <i>Graduates</i>	
		MR. ORPHEUS MC ADOD.		} <i>of the</i>
		MISS ROSETTA MASON.		

In the year 1863, when the need of the freed people was most extensive and pressing, General B. F. Butler, being then chief in command at Fortress Monroe, erected, with government funds, the large wooden building shown in the accompanying cut, which has ever since been known as the "Butler School."

By the end of that year, above six hundred pupils were gathered within its walls, where not less than five thousand colored children have been taught the rudiments of knowledge.

The Butler school-house was turned over by the Government in 1865 to the American Missionary Association, who improved it and supplied it with teachers until it became the property of the Trustees of the Hampton Institute, upon whose grounds it now stands. In 1871, these Trustees requested the public school officers of the county to assume charge of it, reserving the right to nominate its principal and teachers. It thus became a free, county school, the

building, however, remaining the property of the Hampton Institute, whose officers and teachers have kept a watchful eye upon an institution, many of whose pupils naturally pass into the more advanced system of Hampton, and graduate from there. The school, as it now stands, is preparatory to the "Normal."

For the past two years it has been conducted as a free public school from October till February, with an attendance of two hundred and fifty children, when, owing to the failure of public funds, it has been kept up from February till July, partly by a weekly tuition fee of ten cents paid by the students, but chiefly by the aid of friends in the North, through the appeals of the officers of the Hampton Institute. The attendance after February diminishes to about one hundred and fifty, but the teaching is done to excellent advantage, and the children make more progress than when the class-rooms are over crowded with pupils of all sizes and ages.

A KITCHEN GARDEN department has been established in which the entire routine of house-work is taught practically, with miniature utensils and apparatus. Already the children have put into practice at their own homes much of what they have learned at school; they are thus made efficient as servants and command better wages.

Miss Elizabeth Hyde, graduate of the Framingham Normal School of Massachusetts, superintends the work, and conducts one division of the school, employing members of the Senior class of the Hampton Institute for that purpose, who are thus drilled in the art of teaching.

The Butler School building is in the form of a Greek cross, each arm being 30 x 180 feet. Part of it is used as a residence; another portion affords valuable storage room for farm products, it being situated at the extremity of the farm farthest from the barn.

It rests on a brick foundation and its framework is solid, but it needs reshingling, and other improvement, having stood seventeen years, without repairs.

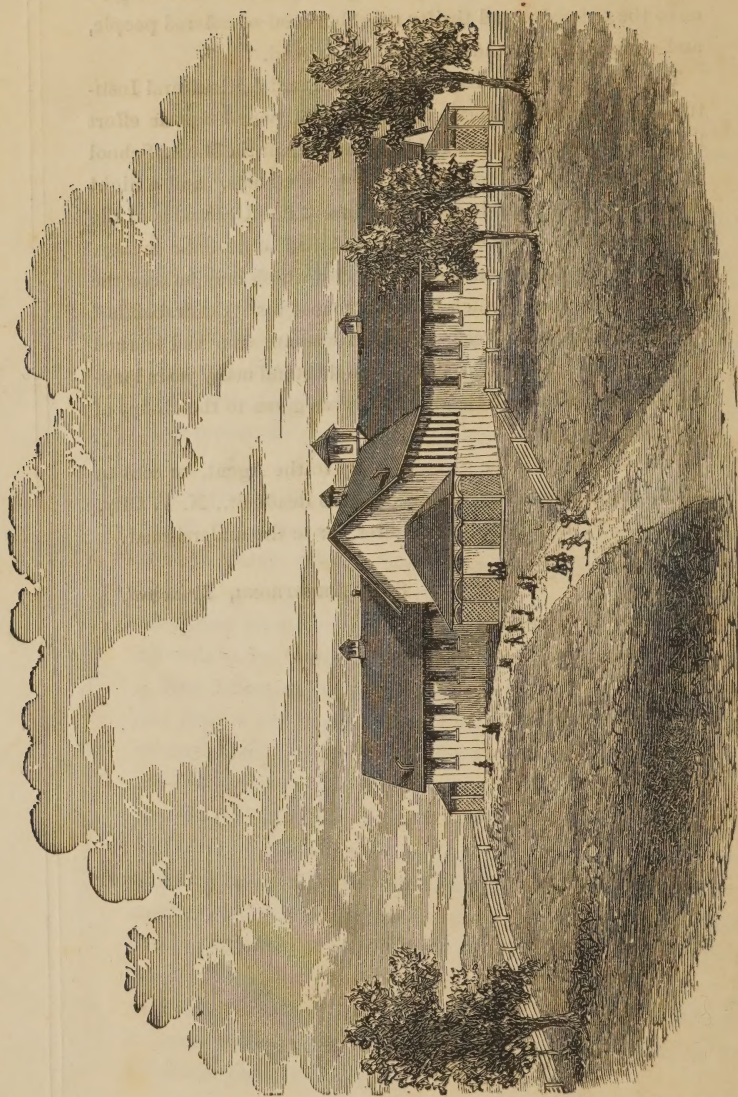
By finishing off a lecture room in the large central portion of the building, a series of cheap and good lectures could be given to the extensive and thrifty neighborhood of colored people, and a night class for adults could be opened.

The Trustees of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, at their annual meeting in May 1881, voted that an effort be made to raise \$1,000 to reshingle and repair the Butler School house, finish off a room for lectures, meetings, and a night class, and to weather-board a portion of it. Graduates of the Hampton Institute have been commissioned to raise the money. It is fitting that this building, close by which may be seen the Live Oak tree under which the first school for "Contrabands" was opened by Mrs. Peek, a colored woman, who had learned to read by stealth in slavery times, should stand many years longer on the ground where the first blow was given to the chains of the American slave.

Contributions may be given directly to the Agent, or sent to the American Missionary Association, 56 Reade St., N. Y. City, to Gen. J. F. B. Marshall, Treasurer, or to the undersigned.

S. C. ARMSTRONG, *Principal.*

*Hampton, Va. June 1881.*



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